

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

June 09, 1981

POLAND: Central Committee Plenum

Supporters and opponents of reform probably will clash during the Central Committee plenum today, and there could be important changes in the party leadership. [REDACTED]

The Soviets and their hardline sympathizers within the Polish party have been seeking such a showdown. The Soviet letter over the weekend to the Polish Central Committee reportedly accused party chief Kania and Prime Minister Jaruzelski of being incapable of dealing with counterrevolution, losing control of the mass media, and lacking firmness in dealing with anti-Soviet incidents. Polish Deputy Prime Minister Rakowski has confirmed that the Soviets sent a letter but said it was not an ultimatum. [REDACTED]

Moscow may harbor lingering hopes that its heightened pressure will encourage Polish conservatives in the Central Committee to counter the reformists. On the other hand, the Soviets may only be seeking a final confirmation of their worst fears that the reform process is out of control and that Kania has neither the will nor the ability to oppose it. [REDACTED]

The Central Committee may try to mute the controversy. It could reaffirm its support for reform while seeking to reassure Moscow that this is the only way it can reestablish its authority. [REDACTED]

A less likely outcome of the plenum could be a tactical victory for the conservatives. This probably would entail the ouster of Kania and postponement of the congress. Such moves would cause an open rebellion in the party and destroy whatever ability it still has to make or enforce decisions. [REDACTED]

The recent Soviet criticism could result in the expulsion of conservatives from the leadership. This would in turn force Moscow to make some critical decisions. [REDACTED]

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Talks on Strike

Solidarity leader Walesa yesterday agreed with government negotiators to call off a threatened two-hour warning strike on Thursday, according to a Western news service. Other press reports indicate talks between Solidarity leaders and a government team headed by Rakowski were inconclusive but that the two sides had agreed to continue negotiations. [REDACTED]

Union members in four provinces had planned to stage the strike because the government has not yet named or punished officials responsible for the assault on Solidarity personnel in Bydgoszcz in March. [REDACTED]

Even if Walesa agreed to call off the strike, the other leaders of Solidarity would have to approve his decision. They presumably would do so but probably would criticize Walesa severely for acting on his own, and the conflict within the union between moderates and the more radical members would increase. [REDACTED]

Solidarity's position on the incident in Bydgoszcz was strengthened when members of the militia there presented an open letter on Saturday that supported Solidarity's demand on punishing officials responsible for the assault. The militia also disavowed the support they had received from the hardline Katowice Party Forum. [REDACTED]

Caught between the populace and the authorities, some in the militia have attempted to form a union to demonstrate that they are not responsible for repression. [REDACTED] the newly formed union--which has not been recognized by the regime--demanded on Saturday that political leaders who used force to repress demonstrators in the past be called to account. [REDACTED]

The letter and the attempt to form a union are examples of the political ferment affecting the police throughout Poland and bring into question whether the Kania leadership can rely on the police, once the bulwark of the Polish regime. [REDACTED]